

-2-

France  
15 October 1944  
Sunday.

My Darling Wife,

Hello, honey. Hope that you and Laura are well and that all is well at home. I am fine.

We moved again, it's raining again, and we are all set up again in the new home. Today has been

We don't like this place so well as the old German camp. The building we are in is an old school and we are on the third floor. We have about half as many beds as we need. Last night I slept on the floor, but today I was given a bed. I still have no mattress but the bed is more springy than the floor.

Our vans are nearly a hundred yards away from the office, which <sup>(next</sup> <sub>street</sub>

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is rather inconvenient, too. We had no lights last night, either, but are working on the wiring tonight so that we will have lights tomorrow.

We moved here while it was raining a little and everything was very muddy. Today has been another rainy day, so matters are no better. Our overshoes come in very handy.

Yesterday afternoon, after we got set up and the vans cleaned out and mopped, we got the rest of the afternoon off. Max Nelson, the other typist and file clerk, and I went up town and looked around.

We each bought a couple of trinkets, but I broke one already. (next sheet)



I'll send the other one to you in a few days. We got a few French coins, which I will send, too, and we had a glass of beer. It was my first taste of French beer.

It was very much like English "bitter" or beer and very very weak (probably diluted heavily with water to make a lot out of a little). It cost us 2 Francs and 50 Centimes a glass (a nickel).

The town is very small, and there seemed to be nothing else to see, but we bought a bag of French bread about 2 feet long for 4 Francs and came back to camp.

We went to bed about 8 o'clock as it was dark  
(next sheet)

in the barracks and the vans,  
 too. The night shift was off  
 duty also and the generators  
 got a little rest, too. Tonight  
 the generators are going as  
 usual and I am writing in  
 the van as usual.

Last night before going to  
 bed we were surprised to  
 see automobile lights coming  
 over a distant hill and we  
 were so amazed that we  
 just stood and stared. They  
 were the first lights we had  
 seen outdoors at night in  
 months. Even in England the  
 cars drove only with blackout  
 lights.

All traffic between the  
 light boundary and the front (next sheet)



lines must proceed with blackout  
lights or little "cat's eyes" lights,  
but up to a certain point  
all traffic may travel with both  
full headlights.

Last night was the first time  
we were near enough to the lightning  
boundary line to see the traffic  
proceeding with full headlights,  
though.

You can imagine the feeling  
one might have at seeing such  
a sight only upon recalling how  
you felt when the dimout was  
lifted at home. I imagine you'll  
felt the same thrill that we did  
when we saw auto lights again.

Darling, that's about all  
the news tonight, but I want  
(next sheet)

you to know that I am thinking  
of you always and praying for  
you and Laura.

I send my love to you both  
and a sweet kiss to Laura.

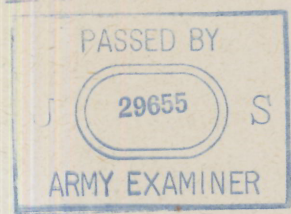
I am saving all my kisses for  
you for future delivery in person,  
honey.

Goodnight now, my darlings.  
Pleasant dreams. I love you,  
Shirley.

Your loving husband  
Daddy,  
you felt when the dimout was  
at home. I imagine Cliff  
the same thrill that we did  
we saw auto lights again.

Darling, that's about all  
the news tonight, but I want  
(not about)

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